

JUN 10 1956

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RD

Red China's Prisoners Better Off

Seven Americans Have More Food

HONG KONG W.—Seven Americans imprisoned at Shanghai's Ward Road prison are reported to be getting vastly improved treatment from their Chinese Communist captors.

The report was given to American officials here by Ernest Gottschalk, a German released in May after five years' imprisonment in China. Until last summer, Mr. Gottschalk shared a cell with Hugh F. Redmond, of Yonkers, N. Y., who was arrested in April, 1951, and sentenced to life imprisonment for espionage in September, 1954.

Mr. Gottschalk reported that Americans and other foreigners in the prison are getting better food, are allowed more time for daily exercise and have been furnished Western-style beds instead of straw mats.

Reports Redmond Well

He said the Americans in the prison were moved from their cells and placed in another section of the prison compound earlier this year. They apparently are being kept together and segregated from other prisoners.

He said treatment has improved "considerably" since the first of the year. Mr. Redmond, who had been suffering from beriberi last year, is now well, he said.

Mr. Gottschalk did not know any details about the other six Americans, all Catholic priests, but assumed their condition has improved, too.

The priests are the Revs. John W. Clifford, Charles J. McCarthy and Thomas L. Phillips, all of San Francisco; John A. Hottle, Glendale, Calif.; Joseph P. McCormack, New York, and Cyril Wagner, Pittsburgh.

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